

South Yorkshire ICB Community Pharmacy BP Check Service Template Local Protocol for Management of Patients Requiring Escalation

This protocol is to support the successful delivery of the [NHS Community Pharmacy BP Check \(Hypertension Case Finding\) Service](#). The SY ICB would like to encourage PCNs/practices and Community Pharmacies to adopt a consistent approach to the management of patients identified within community pharmacies with high/low BP readings.

Pharmacists will take blood pressure measurements following best practice as described in NICE guidance ([NG136](#)) and follow the pathway in Appendix A (page 14) of the [Service Specification](#)

NB: ABPM now only needs to be worn for 14 readings during patients normal waking hours.

[Clinic blood pressure guide](#)

Recommended local protocol:

Blood pressure checks within the pharmacy and returning of ABPM machines should normally be organised before 4.30pm so that there is sufficient time for the GP practice to review any results/arrange an appointment should patient escalation be required.

Normal Readings:

All patients with normal BP readings will be entered on a weekly spreadsheet/template that will be emailed to the practice (this could be to a dedicated member of staff/dedicated email address where available IT solutions/local arrangements can accommodate this).

The normal BP readings will be passed to the practice reception to enter into patient records (unless there is an IT solution in place).

For Patients requiring non-urgent escalation due to Stage One Hypertension:

An ABPM reading between 135/85 – 149/94 will be emailed to a locally agreed member of the practice team/agreed email address without waiting for the weekly return. The patient will be contacted by the practice to arrange for initial appointments at the practice. Initial appointments would normally be:

- HCA appointment for blood tests for UE, HBA1C, Lipid profile (unless already been done in last 3 months) and urine dip for protein/blood.
- Review 1 week after by an appropriate clinician with blood results to initiate antihypertensive treatment.

Whilst there is no immediate clinical urgency in this situation, it would be usual for the practice to try and complete these steps within 3-4 weeks.

These patients will also be indicated on the weekly return by the pharmacy as a fail safe.

For Patients requiring non-urgent escalation due to BP reading below 90/60 with no symptoms

These should be entered on the weekly return and emailed to the locally agreed email at the practice (this could be a dedicated member of staff). These will be passed to reception to enter the BP reading and a task sent to a practice clinician e.g. practice pharmacist to review the notes to make sure that there is no indication of more significant problems or medication adjustment needed.

Patients requiring same day escalation include:

- Patients with very high clinic blood pressure (180/120 or higher)
- Patients who had high clinic readings who then have Stage 2 Hypertension indicated following ABPM (ABPM above 150/95 or higher)
- Patients who had low clinic readings (90/60 or lower) with symptoms (fainting or regularly feeling like they will faint)
- Patients identified as having an irregular pulse

The results should be passed by the community pharmacist to the patients GP by phone call for attention of the duty doctor. The duty GP will review the results and advise on what further action needs taking.

If patient requires same day escalation and **GP uncontactable/practice closed:**

- Patients who are significantly unwell (e.g. new significant headache, fits, nausea and vomiting, visual disturbance, stroke) should be directed to A & E.
- Patients with very high clinic blood pressure (180/120 or higher), those who had low clinic readings (90/60 or lower) with symptoms (fainting or regularly feeling like they will faint) and those identified as having an irregular pulse will need a face-to-face assessment. This group of patients should be encouraged to attend UECC if not willing/able to attend UECC contact your local out of hours GP provider (**Appendix 1**)
- All other patients requiring same day escalation contact your local out of hours GP provider (**Appendix 1**).

If you are a pharmacy requiring a copy of Appendix 1 please email: claire.thomas47@nhs.net